

WE CLAIM:

1. An apparatus of reading digital data printed on a photograph in invisible ink wherein the data is encoded image data from a camera system, the apparatus including a scanner means for scanning in the invisible ink data on the photograph; means for advancing the print media through the scanner means; means for illuminating the print media with invisible radiation; means for processing the data output from said scanner means including means for decoding said data; ink jet printer means for printing out the image derived from said decoded data on a print media attached to said ink jet printer means.

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2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said data is encoded in a fault tolerant digital form using a Reed-Solomon process and said means for processing and decoding said data includes means for processing said Reed-Solomon process.

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3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said invisible ink is an infra-red absorbing ink, and wherein said invisible radiation is infra-red light.

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4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ink jet printer means includes means for printing out on a print media attached to said ink jet printer means both the image and the image data, said image data being printed in invisible ink in an encoded form, said image and image data being derived from said decoded data.

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5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said image data is encoded in a fault tolerant digital form using a Reed-Solomon process and said means for processing and decoding said image data includes means for processing said Reed-Solomon process.